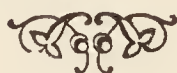


SEAHAM HARBOUR

Urban District Council.



Annual Report

FOR 1908,

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



SEAHAM HARBOUR :

W. J. Young, Printer and Stationer, North Railway Street.

1909.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30075166>

**To the Chairman and Members
of the
Seaham Harbour Urban District Council**

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for 1908.

POPULATION, &c., AT CENSUS 1901.

Population—10,163
Increase between 1891 and 1901—1,119
Percentage of Increase—12·3
Area in Acres—1,101
Number of Persons per Acre—9·2
Number of Inhabited Houses—1,313
Number of Persons per House—7·7

The number of births registered for the years 1901-1908 was 3,713, and the number of deaths 1,793, a natural increase of 1,920.

The population estimated on this basis would have been 12,083 on December 31st, 1908.

Since 1901 the houses which have been built and are now occupied are as follows:—38 containing three tenements, 89 containing two tenements, and 214 for one tenant. Total number of tenements, 506.

The population estimated to June, 1908, was 12,500.

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered was 470, which is 19 less than the previous year; of these births 229 were male and 241 female; 2 males and 2 females were illegitimate.

The birth rate was 37·6 as compared with 42·4 the average for the previous 10 years, and 41·6 for 1907. The highest birth rate recorded in this district was 47·6 in 1902.

The following table shews the number of births registered each month.

Months	Male	Female	Monthly Totals
January	19	13	32
February	18	11	29
March	16	29	45
April	22	13	35
May	21	23	44
June	17	22	39
July	24	15	39
August	22	19	41
September	24	27	51
October	18	20	38
November	14	23	37
December	14	26	40
YEARLY TOTALS ..	229	241	470

DEATHS.

236 deaths of persons belonging to this district occurred; of these 133 were male and 103 female, which gives a mortality rate of 18·8 as compared with 20·8 the average for the previous 10 years, and 20·0 for 1907. The highest death rate recorded in this district was 25·0 in 1901.

The number of deaths registered in the district was 216 as compared with 226 in the previous year.

The deaths of persons under 3 years of age numbered 104, while those of 3 years and upwards numbered 132.

Of the total number of deaths registered 68 were under 1 year, 39 between 1 and 5 years, 29 between 5 and 25 years, 62 between 25 and 65 years, and 38 from 65 upwards.

6 persons belonging to this district died in Sunderland Infirmary, 1 in Sunderland Workhouse, 1 in Sedgefield Asylum, and 14 in Easington Workhouse, a total of 22 as compared with 10 in 1907 and 11 the average for the previous 10 years.

Phthisis caused 14 deaths, equal to a mortality rate of 1·1 as compared with 1·3 in 1907. Other tuberculous diseases were responsible for 24 deaths, equal to a mortality rate of 1·9.

Bronchitis and pneumonia caused 34 deaths, equal to a mortality rate of 2·7 as against 2·9 in 1907.

The following deaths occurred from zymotic diseases :—measles 1, whooping cough 5, diphtheria 1, enteric 5, diarrhoea 10, and enteritis 6, a total of 28, which gives a mortality rate of 2·2 as compared with 3·2 in 1907.

In the following table the chief vital statistics of this district for 1907 and 1908 are compared with those for the administrative county of Durham.

	Seaham Harbour		Administrative County		
	1908	1907	1908	1907	Aver- ages 1898- 1907.
Birth rate	37·6	41·6	37·0	34·8	35·3
Death rate	18·8	20·0	17·5	17·0	18·0
Zymotic Death rate	2·2	3·2	2·7	1·9	2·2
Infant Mortality rate	144	141	151	136	162
Phthisis	1·1	1·1	0·95	0·97	1·11
Other tuberculous diseases	1·9	2·1	0·70	0·80	0·86
Respiratory diseases	2·7	2·9	2·81	3·09	3·06
Diarrhœa	1·2	0·01	1·44	0·59	0·90

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Infantile mortality is measured by the number of deaths under 1 year of age per 1000 children born alive during the year.

68 deaths occurred in this district, equal to a mortality rate of 144 as compared with 69 deaths and a rate of 141 in 1907, and 164 the average for the previous 10 years. The highest rate recorded in this district was 214 in 1897.

The principal causes of death were:—

Premature birth	...	...	15
Congenital debility	...	...	13
Congenital defects	...	...	6
Whooping cough	...	...	2
Diarrhœa	...	...	6
Enteritis	..	...	3
Tuberculous diseases	..	...	6
Acute pulmonary diseases	...	...	12
Suffocation	...	...	1
Other causes	...	...	4

68

The following table shews the causes of death of all children under 5 years of age, a total of 107 in this district as compared with 121 in 1907.

Deaths from stated Causes of Children under Five Years of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total Deaths under 1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year	1-2 Yrs.	2-3 Yrs.	3-4 Yrs.	4-5 Yrs.	Total Deaths under 5 Years	
ALL CAUSES	Certified ..	18	2	2	3	25	6	6	4	3	5	3	1	5	5	2	3		68	29	7	3		107
	Uncertified ..																		0					0
Common Infectious Diseases	Smallpox ..																							
	Chicken-pox ..																							
	Measles ..																							
	Scarlet Fever ..																							
Diarrhoeal Diseases	Diphtheria: Croup ..																							
	Whooping Cough ..																							
	Diarrhoea, all forms ..																							
	Enteritis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ..																							
Wasting Diseases	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ..																							
	Premature Birth ..	13		2		15													15					15
	Congenital Defects ..	3	2		1	6													6					6
	Injury at Birth ..																							
Tuberculous Diseases	Want of Breast-milk ..																							
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ..	1																						
	Tuberculous Meningitis ..																							
	Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica ..																							
Other Causes.	Other Tuberculous Diseases ..																							
	Erysipelas ..																							
	Syphilis ..																							
	Rickets ..																							
Other Causes.	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ..																							
	Convulsions ..																							
	Bronchitis ..																							
	Laryngitis ..																							
Other Causes.	Pneumonia ..	1																						
	Suffocation, overlaying ..																							
	Other Causes ..																							
		18	2	2	3	25	6	6	4	3	5	3	1	5	5	2	3	68	29	7	3		107	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

7 cases of diphtheria, 4 of erysipelas, 9 of scarlet fever, and 23 of enteric fever were notified, a total of 43 as compared with 23 in 1907.

The persons suffering from scarlet fever and diphtheria were carefully isolated.

I regret to state that 23 cases of enteric occurred as compared with 1 in 1905, 2 in 1906, and none in 1907.

Samples of the milk and water supplied to the town were sent for analysis. The report shewed that they were not the cause of the outbreak.

One person contracted enteric through eating infected mussels, and one came into the district suffering from the disease.

12 persons contracted the disease in Viceroy Street owing, I consider, to the insanitary condition of the pail closets. In many cases the moveable bins were destroyed and the closets converted into small middens, the contents of which flowed on to the footpath.

I recommend that all insanitary pail closets be replaced by W.Cs.

There has not been a case of small-pox, but the hospital is always kept in readiness, so that any case which may occur can be promptly isolated.

There has not been a case of typhus or puerperal fever.

12 cases of enteric and 1 of scarlatina were treated in the isolation hospital.

The following tables shew the number of cases of infectious disease notified in each year since 1894, and in each month during 1907.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during 1908 and previous years.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Small-pox ..	1														
Cholera.. ..															
Diphtheria ..		2		2			2	9	18	42	7		3	10	7
Membranous) Croup]		1					1	1							
Erysipelas ..	16	11	14	10	12	7	11	8	3	6	21	13	2	9	4
Scarlet Fever ..	147	77	86	40	36	12	25	84	43	56	13	12	6	3	9
Typhus Fever..															
Enteric Fever..	12	20	14	11	20	27	30	28	14	5	2	1	2	1	23
Relapsing Fever															
Continued Fever		3													
Puerperal Fever															
Plague															
Totals ..	176	114	114	63	68	46	69	130	78	109	43	26	13	23	43

INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.



Cases Notified each Month.

Months	No. of Cases Notified	CAUSES										
		Smallpox	Cholera	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Erysipelas	Scarlet, Fever	FEVERS				
								Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Relapsing	Continued	Puerperal
January ..	2						2					
February ..	2			1		1						
March ..	4			1		1	2					
April ..	1			1								
May ..	1					1						
June ..	2						2					
July ..	4								4			
August ..	4						1		3			
September	5			1		1			3			
October ..	7			1			1		5			
November	6			1					5			
December	5			1			1		3			
YEARLY TOTALS	43			7		4	9		23			

GENERAL SANITATION.

The water supply, pumped from the magnesian limestone, has been analysed on two occasions and found satisfactory in every respect.

28 improperly paved yards have been cemented and 17 asphalted, making a total of 267 during the last eight years. All yards paved with cobble stones should be cemented or asphalted as they are a fruitful source of infantile diarrhœa in hot weather, such as we had last autumn.

580 yards of stone drains have been taken out and replaced by sanitary pipes.

The scavenging is done by the employees of the Council and has been carried out satisfactorily. Part of the refuse is used as manure and the remainder tipped into the sea.

The sanitary committee, the surveyor, and myself have systematically inspected the district. On our recommendation the Council issued notices regarding improperly paved yards and defective house drains. All these notices have been complied with.

During the year 221 new houses have been erected, a very important matter as many of the old ones are not suitable homes for the working classes.

There are 3 common lodging houses in the district affording accommodation for 69 lodgers, with an average of 312 cubic feet of air space per head. They have been inspected frequently and found in good order. No case of infectious disease occurred in any of the lodging houses during the year.

There are 2 dairy farms which have been inspected regularly. The cow sheds are well kept and 853 cubic feet of air space allowed for each animal.

The milkshops, 27 in number, have been regularly inspected. With 6 exceptions they have been found in a satisfactory condition.

Reference to the surveyor's report will shew the large amount of work done in his department. He has in addition regularly inspected the vessels coming to the Port.

Through the kindness of Mr Aird, I am able to append a report on the weather during the year from records taken by him at the climatological station.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are in the district 7 factories, 19 workshops, and 47 bake-houses. They have been inspected frequently, and the defects found were:—want of cleanliness in 4 bake-houses. There are no out-workers in the district.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.

Cementing or asphaltting of all improperly paved yards and footpaths.

Improvement of the present sewerage system.

The replacing of all insanitary pail closets by W.Cs.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

LUKE GERALD DILLON, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.

*Tempest House,
Seaham Harbour,
January, 1909.*

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths whether of "Resi- dents" or "Non-res- idents" in Public Institu- tions in the District.
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox								
Measles	1		1					
Scarlet Fever								
Whooping Cough	5	2	3					
Diphtheria including Mem- branous Croup	1			1				
Croup								
Fever { Typhus	5				2	3		2
Enteric								
Other continued								
Epidemic Influenza	1					1		
Cholera								
Plague								
Diarrhœa	10	6	3	1				
Enteritis	6	3	3					
Puerperal Fever								
Erysipelas								
Other Septic Diseases								
Phthisis	14			1	1	10	2	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	24	7	11	5		1		
Cancer, malignant disease..	8					7	1	
Bronchitis	14	6	2			3	3	
Pneumonia	20	6	6	1		7		
Pleurisy								
Other Diseases of Respira- tory Organs								
Alcoholism)	2	1				1		
Cirrhosis of Liver)								
Vonereal diseases								
Premature Birth	15	15						
Diseases and accidents of parturition								
Heart diseases	28	1		3	2	14	8	1
Accidents	14	1	2	1	4	4	2	4
Suicides	2				1	1		
All other causes	66	20	8	4	2	10	22	
All causes	236	68	39	17	12	62	38	7

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and Previous Years.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT					Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT	
				Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages							
		Num-ber	Rate	Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number	Rate						
								Number				Rate	
1898	9842	378	38.4	70	185	191	19.4			12	203	20.6	
1899	9957	420	42.1	75	178	196	19.6			10	206	20.6	
1900	10074	424	42.0	74	174	213	21.1			14	227	22.5	
1901	10192	446	43.7	82	183	243	23.8			12	255	25.0	
1902	10312	481	47.6	75	155	195	18.9	1	1	11	205	19.8	
1903	10433	465	44.5	69	148	213	20.4			5	218	20.8	
1904	10556	459	43.4	58	126	187	17.7	1	1	15	201	19.0	
1905	11000	465	42.2	79	169	223	20.2			12	234	21.2	
1906	11200	438	39.1	82	187	200	17.8	4	3	11	208	18.5	
1907	11750	489	41.6	69	141	226	19.2	1		10	236	20.0	
Averages for years 1898-1907	10531	446	42.4	73	164	208	19.8			11	219	20.8	
1908	12500	470	37.6	68	144	216	17.2	7	2	22	236	18.8	

I Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District	II. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District	III. Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District
Seaham Infirmary	Easington Workhouse Sunderland Infirmary Sedgfield Asylum	
The Union Workhouse is not within the District.		

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total Deaths under 1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
ALL CAUSES	Certified ..	18	2	2	3	25	6	6	4	3	5	3	1	5	5	2	3	68
	Uncertified ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Common Infectious Diseases	Smallpox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Chicken-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoeal Diseases	Diphtheria: Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Diarrhoea, all forms ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Enteritis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wasting Diseases	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Premature Birth ..	13	..	2	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
	Congenital Defects ..	3	2	..	1	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
	Injury at Birth ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Diseases	Want of Breast-milk ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ..	1	..	..	..	1	6	3	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	13
	Tuberculous Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
	Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	1	5
Other Causes.	Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Syphilis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	Rickets ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Causes.	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Convulsions ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
	Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	1	..	..	6
	Laryngitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	6
Other Causes	Pneumonia ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	Suffocation, overlaying ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total		18	2	2	3	25	6	6	4	3	5	3	1	5	5	2	3	68

Population, estimated to middle of 1908, 12,500

Births in the year

{ legitimate, 466.
illegitimate, 4.

Deaths in the year

{ legitimate infants, 64.
illegitimate infants, 4.

Death from all Causes at all Ages, 236.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the year 1908.

Notifiable Disease	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT							Total Cases Removed to Hospital
	At all Ages	At Ages —Years						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	
Smallpox								
Cholera								
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	7			7				
Erysipelas	4			1		3		
Scarlet Fever ..	9		1	7		1		1
Typhus Fever ..								
Enteric Fever ..	23		1	10	4	8		12
Relapsing Fever ..								
Continued Fever ..								
Puerperal Fever ..								
Plague								
TOTALS	43		2	25	4	12		13

Isolation Hospital—Name and situation : Seaham Harbour Isolation
Hospital, situated in the district. Total available beds—16.
Number of diseases that can be concurrently treated—2.

**SUMMARY of Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances'
Department during the Year 1908, in the Urban
District of Seaham Harbour.**

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.					Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
Dwelling-houses and Schools	{	Foul Conditions ..			15		15
		Structural Defects			8		8
		Overcrowding ..			15		15
Lodging-houses					4		4
Dairies and Milkshops					6		6
Cowsheds							
Bakehouses					4		4
Slaughter-houses					2		2
Ashpits and Privies (not any)							
Deposits of Refuse and Manure					7		7
Waterclosets					18		18
Defective Yard Paving						45	45
House Drainage	{	Defective Traps			12		12
		No Disconnection from Sewers					
		Other Faults			9		9
Water Supply					8		8
Pigsties					4		4
Animals Improperly Kept							
Offensive Trades							
Smoke Nuisances							
Other Nuisances					27		27
Totals					139	45	184

	Number
2. Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.	
Formal Notices served	9
Dwellings dealt with	16
Dwellings made habitable after formal notice	6
Closing Orders applied for	
Closing Orders granted by Magistrates	
Dwellings permanently closed	
3.	
Number of New Houses erected during the year	221
Number of such Houses occupied during the year	152
4. Water, Food and Drugs.	
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	4
„ „ condemned as unfit for use	
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis	8
„ „ found Adulterated	2
5. Precautions against Infectious Disease.	
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	22
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	26
Schools „ „ „	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things	
Convictions „ „ „	

JAMES BURRELL,

Inspector of Nuisances.

Weather at Seaham Harbour for the Year 1908.

WIND.

The direction is taken twice daily, viz. : 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.
The 732 observations thus taken were in the following proportions :

SW	..	..	175
W..	..	..	117
S ..	..	..	92
SE	..	..	76
NW	..	..	69
N ..	..	..	56
NE	..	..	42
E ..	..	..	37
Calm	..	..	68
			732

TEMPERATURE.

Month	Average Maximum	Average Minimum	Mean
January	41·9	32·9	37·4
February	46·4	36·5	41·4
March	44·4	34·2	39·3
April	46·5	38·0	42·2
May	58·5	45·6	52·0
June	61·3	47·9	54·6
July	64·1	52·4	58·2
August	58·3	54·2	56·2
September	60·9	51·2	56·0
October	58·6	48·4	53·5
November	49·2	39·4	44·3
December	43·2	33·9	38·1
MEANS	52·3	42·9	47·7

Highest, 78·6, July 22nd ; Lowest, 17·6, Dec. 29th.

RAINFALL.

Month	Total	Greatest fall in 24 hours	No. of Days
	Inches	Inches	
January	1·093	·590 on 7th	9
February	1·136	·220 27th	12
March	2·645	·652 6th	19
April	2·442	·407 26th	16
May.. ..	1·275	·272 3rd	13
June	·500	·090 2nd & 13th	12
July.. ..	2·752	·610 11th	12
August	1·339	·465 31st	16
September	1·636	·310 16th	17
October	·945	·290 27th	11
November	1·669	·370 13th	14
December	1·055	·260 10th	16
	18·487		167

Average fall for the years 1865 to 1871 inclusive—26·014 inches

Total for the year 1872 —41·620 inches

Average for the years 1873 to 1908 inclusive—25·888 inches

„ Number of days on which rain fell—184

The year 1900 was the wettest in 38 years (except 1872), viz. 33·836 inches. The following were the next wettest :—

{ 1876	30·083
{ 1877	32·094
{ 1881	31·391
{ 1882	30·494
1903	32·394

One inch of rain is equal to 1 gallon of water spread over 2 square feet, or 101 tons on an acre of land.

G. H. AIRD.

